

News Release



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region

Contact: Cheryl Chatham,
cchatham@fs.fed.us
(501) 321-5277

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKS APPLICATIONS

Roanoke, Va. -- The U.S. Forest Service is seeking nominations to fill four positions on the 11 member Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (Recreation RAC). The Recreation RAC provides recommendations on recreation fees to the agency for National Forest System lands on the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky and across the Southern Region.

Nominations will be accepted through Friday, July 31, 2009. One member will be selected to represent each of the following interests: 1) Wildlife Viewing/Visiting Interpretive Sites; 2) Non-motorized Recreation; 3) Local Environmental Groups; and 4) State Tourism Official Representing the State.

Appointments will begin in February 2010 when current member three-year appointments expire. Committee members will be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and serve a three year term. Potential nominees must represent certain interests as described in the December 2004 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). Applicants for the advisory committee must fill out an AD-755 (Advisory Committee or Search/Promotion Background Information) form.

Interested applicants will be recommended to the Regional Forester for appointment based on the following evaluation criteria: 1) what interest groups they represent and how they are qualified to

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represent a particular group, 2) why they want to serve on the committee and what they can contribute, and 3) their past experience in working successfully as part of a collaborative group. Letters of recommendation are welcome, but not required. The demonstrated ability of the prospective committee members to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities will also be considered for membership selections. USDA policies regarding equal opportunity will be followed in committee member selections and appointments.

Recreation RAC members serve without pay. They are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses for regularly scheduled committee meetings. All Recreation RAC meetings are open to the public. An open public forum is part of each meeting.

Additional information about Recreation RACs, recreation fees, and REA is available at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/about-rec-fees.shtml>. Application materials may be obtained

at <http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rrac-application.shtml> or by emailing: r8_rrac@fs.fed.us.

Interested parties may also contact Caroline Mitchell (501-321-5318), U.S. Forest Service, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71901. Nomination forms can be submitted to the address listed above.